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AGRICULTURE

The Ukraine, Kazakh SSR and to some extent Estonian SSR are admittedly slow in various aspects of their field work, according to regional transmissions during the period reviewed. Fodder production in the first two named republics is still dangerously behind plan, and in some places definitely worse than last year. RADIANSKA UKRAINA (4 July) is particularly concerned about the fodder situation: "The republic as a whole is lagging behind" (Vidstaє respublika v tsilomu). In its previous editorial strictures about the lack of hay-making and silaging progress the paper had made it clear that most of the fodder preparations were to be completed before the beginning of grain-harvesting. It now appears that at least in four oblasts--Chernigov, Kiev, Sumy and Zhitomir--the work is even slower than last year. Grain harvesting, says the paper, is to begin any day now but the over-all silaging plan has been completed by only 23.6%. Nor are there any visible signs of improvement:

With the harvesting time drawing near, the silaging tempos are not speeded up but slowed down. The fodder silaged in the last five-day period was tens of thousands of tons less than during the previous five-day period.

Ukrainian version:

Z nablyzhennyam do zhnyv tempy sylosuvannya ne narostayut, a znyshuyutsya. Za ostannyyu pyatydnivku zasylisovano kormiv na desyatty tysyach tonn menshe, nizh u poperednyu pyatydnivku.

Zaporozhye oblast is another where very little feed has been produced so far, but this and the above-named oblasts are said to be only a few of the "very many" in the Ukraine where the situation is "alarming." In some of them, like Chernigov, for example, the hay-mowing and silaging plans were completed by 10.8% and 8.8% percent respectively.

Discussing harvesting operations (12 July) already underway in a number of southern oblasts, the same paper observes regretfully that the field work went off to an inauspicious start: "mistakes have arisen from the very first days of the harvest." Thus in Odessa and Zaporozhye oblasts the grain cannot be delivered from the combines to the threshing floors for the simple reason that no transportation facilities have been provided for the purpose. Most of the threshing has to be done by hand for similar reasons: "Most of the kolkhozes have not installed threshing machines on the floors." Defining the point, the paper says that it was really the duty of the machine-tractor stations to install such equipment, but when they failed to do so no one even protested because the farm officials "did not care for the mechanization of threshing work."

CHERNOMORSKA KOMMUNA (2 July) speaks of the "alarming news" coming in from some rayons of Odessa oblast. A large number of combines have not been repaired in time for the harvesting, and those that have been overhauled have already revealed "serious deficiencies." Such is the state of affairs at the Vasenivskiy, Vradievskiy, Blagoveshchenskiy and Mogilnyanskiy machine-tractor stations, but these are said to be typical of many others. Especially alarming, says the paper, is the lack of essential construction, such as roofed threshing floors, which was to have been finished some time ago. In Lubashevskiy rayon alone, only six out of 25 kolkhozes have just gotten around to building such roofs, but the situation is not much better in Frunzovskiy, Razdelnyanskiy, Shiryayevskiy and a number of other rayons. Threshing floors without roofs, it is emphasized, endanger the preservation of grain.

A summarized report from Nikolayev of 9 July quotes PIVDENNYA PRAVDA and BUZHSKAYA ZARYA on the "extremely unsatisfactory" (kraine nezadovolna) delivery of agricultural produce to the State. Reports coming in from Talegulo-Berezanskiy, Zhovtneviy, Snigirivskiy, Shyrokolanovskiy, Bashtanskiy and other (unnamed) rayons indicate that something radical will have to be done to improve both harvesting work and deliveries. The mentioned papers therefore suggest as "indispensable" to organize work on the fields for "at least" 18 to 19 hours a day in order to make up for lost time. The appropriate Party and agricultural officials must also see to it that deliveries of produce to the State should continue "regardless of weather conditions."

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KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA (2 July) says that a "number of oblasts" have delayed their spring sowing and have not fulfilled the plan. Since only five oblasts are listed as doing a satisfactory job--Almaty, Kokchetav, Kustanai, Dzhambul and South Kazakhstan--the mentioned number apparently includes the remaining eleven oblasts of the Republic. Pursuing the theme on the next day, the same paper strikes a more ominous note by hinting that inefficiency alone does not account for the slow agricultural progress in the Republic: "It is necessary...to wage a merciless fight against the enemies of the kolkhoz system." (Neobkhodimo...vesti bezposhchadnyu borbu s vragami kolkhoznoy sistemy) The paper also admits that despite the stringent measures already taken

the criminal attitude (prestupnoye otnoshenie) toward collective farm property, and plundering and squandering of communal property have not yet been uprooted.

A long unsigned dispatch to PRAVDA from Alma-Ata of 6 July (not broadcast) tells of the recent plenary session of the Central Committee of the Kazakh Communist Party called to discuss measures against the continuing widespread "violations of the agricultural statute" (narusheniya selkhozustava). As discussed in previous CFW reports, the recovery of embezzled funds and stolen agricultural property, such as land and livestock, was a sine qua non in the fight to stem the tide of agricultural crimes. The dispatch quotes the Kazakh premier Taybekov as reporting to the Central Committee that all the Government's efforts to weed out crime in agriculture have not yet brought the desired results:

...numerous cases of agricultural statute violation are still noted in the Republic. To this day, a considerable amount of land, livestock, agricultural products and money has not yet been returned to the collective farms.

Russian version:

...v respublike vse eshche imayutsya mnogochislennye sluuchai narusheniy statava selkhozustavnoy arteli. Po nastoyashchego vremeni znachitelnoye kolichestvo zemli, skota, selkhozustavnykh produktov i deneg kolkhozam eshche ne vozvrashcheno.

The Prime Minister also reveals that many oblast and rayon Party and Soviet officials whose duty it is to enforce the observance of the statute are themselves violating it. Some of them, when exposed, manage to evade legal action against them through the "protection" (pokrovitelstvo) of the oblast Party Committee, as was recently the case in South Kazakhstan. Leading positions in agriculture, it is also revealed, are frequently held by people who have in the past been penalized for agricultural statute violations. The situation is particularly grave in South Kazakhstan oblast where the collective farm leadership is "fouled up with people" (zasoreno ludmi) who are not averse to looting public property.

A report from Tbilisi (in Russian, 8 July) refers to the incidence of collective farm robbery in Adzhar ASSR (Georgian SSR) in terms almost identical with those used for Kazakhstan. Although considerable work has already been done toward the elimination of kolkhoz statute violations, the problem has not yet been licked:

Numerous cases of grave violations of the Kolkhoz code, usurpation of communal kolkhoz lands, squandering of kolkhoz property, funds, products and livestock have been revealed in...Adzhar ASSR.

Here, too, a certain amount of official "protection" is said to be hindering the complete elimination of crime. As in the case of Kazakh SSR also "a number of leading workers" of Adzhar ASSR were themselves found to be violating the agricultural code. The Chairman of the Adzhar Council of Ministers Gogolishvili was "reprimanded" by the Party for lack of vigilance, and a number of rayon Party secretaries relieved of their duties and "subjected to Party penalties for allowing extortions" at collective farms.

A Zemtsov article (9 July) declares that fodder preparations and silaging in the Kazakh republic are something to be concerned about. Not even one half of the motorized and horse-drawn hay-mowing machines were in working condition at the time hay-mowing was scheduled to begin. The result was a near-collapse of the whole fodder-procurement plan:

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The perennial grass area cleared by 5 July was not much more than a third of the size provided for in the plan. Silaging operations by that date were completed by only 20%.

Russian version:

K 5 yulya kolkhozy skosili travy na ploshchadi nemnogim boleye odnoy tret, prezumotrennoy planom. Zadanie po silosovaniu kormov k etomu sroku vypolneno lish na 20%.

Complete lack of control over fodder procurement such as was noted last year, continues Zemtsov, resulted in a great deal of "eyewashing" (ochkovtiratelstvo) among agricultural officials. Much notoriety in this respect was gained by the Guryev oblast agricultural organizations which reported an 8% above-plan performance but ran out of fodder as early as February of this year. What is more, they seem to have gotten away with it: "One wonders why none of the eyewashers was ever held accountable for it!"

A letter to Stalin from the Estonian SSR agricultural workers (4 July) makes the inferential admission that one of their "serious shortcomings" is the failure to increase the number and productivity of their livestock and improve the harvest yields of agricultural products. These shortcomings are said to apply to both the collective and state farms of the Republic. No further details are offered, however.

Following are some of the other available broadcasts on agricultural activities during the period reviewed:

KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA, 6 July -- Much of the hay gathering in Kzyl Orda, West Kazakhstan, Karaganda and South Kazakhstan oblasts is still being done by hand.

ORLOVSKAYA PRAVDA, 6 July--In Orlovskiy, Soskovskiy, Dmitrovskiy, Korsakovskiy and some other rayons combine and threshing-machine repairs are badly organized... The extremely unsatisfactory work in agricultural produce procurement...has caused particular alarm...Creative work is frequently replaced by paper.

TBILISI, 10 July -- Investigation has shown that in Khobskiy, Makharadzevskiy, Mayakovskiy, Abashskiy, Gegeshkovskiy, Zemo-Zvanetskiy, Kutaiskiy and other rayons there have been...cases of embezzlement and misappropriation of kolkhoz property, land and funds.

SEVERNAYA PRAVDA, 10 July -- Less than 50% of the agricultural students completed last year's courses, and only 26% passed the examinations. The plan for raising the qualifications of kolkhoz cadres has been fulfilled by only 25%.

MOIOT editorial, 13 July --The first days of the harvesting campaign have revealed many cases of ripe crops remaining unharvested for a long period of time...In many rayons, including Zverevskiy and Neklinovskiy, there is only talk about mechanizing the threshing floors.

PARTY ACTIVITIES

RADYANSKA UKRAINA (1 July) calls for a concerted intensified fight against the suppression of criticism (zatyska krytyky) from below so that the voice of the rank-and-file Communists and the masses may be heard at the top. One of the methods to be employed for that purpose, the paper suggests, is closer cooperation with the press. This is precisely what a number of Party organizations are not doing:

There are cases when rayon, town and oblast Party Committees are not supporting press reports and are ignoring its warnings.

Ukrainian version:

E vypadky, koly raykomy, miskomy i obkomy ne pidtrymuyut vystupiv presy, ignoruyut ii sygnaly.

Cited as a typical instance in this connection is the reprehensible behavior of the Krukenitsky rayon Party committee, Drogobych oblast. The work of that organization, it is pointed out, "contradicts the very nature of Bolshevism" (superechit samiy pryrodi bilshovizmu). Having been criticized by the primary organizations for its high-handed methods of administration half a year ago, the rayon Party Committee has not done

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anything about mending its ways and is still "deaf to the voice of rank-and-file Communists, to criticism from below". (glukhi do golosu y ryadovikh komunistiv, do krytyky anyzhu). Unfortunately rayon, the paper implies, is merely one among many others (unspecified) where free criticism and self-criticism are somehow not making much headway:

Leaders who are paying lip service to criticism and admitting shortcomings but failing to remedy them and prevent their recurrence are, in effect, suppressing criticism and thereby hindering our development...

Ukrainian version:

Kerivnyky, yaki na slovakh pogodzhuyutsya z krytychnymy vystupamy, vyznayut pomylky, ale nichogo ne roblyat... shchob vypravyty i zapobigty im nadali, po suti zatyskuyut krytyku i tak samo galmuyut nash rozvytok...

Evidence that the Komsomol organizations are emulating their Communist mentors unfavorable attitude toward criticism within the ranks or from below is contained in a KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA editorial of 2 July. Recalling Stalin's advice in 1928 to "raise a wide wave of criticism from below against bureaucracy in general and shortcomings in particular", the paper says that no such wave is as yet visible in a large area of the Komsomol network. The practice of admitting shortcomings and ignoring them immediately afterwards is becoming all too frequent, but that, the paper declares, has nothing to do with the elimination of such shortcomings. This objectionable habit, it is pointed out, is not confined to local Komsomol organizations alone. Hundreds of letters exposing various "Soviet law violations" are received daily by rayon, oblast and republican Central Committees of the Komsomol but nothing much is being done about them. Such an attitude, the paper complains, is not conducive to the establishment of "solid unbreakable bonds" with the masses of nonpartisan youth.

Ineffective criticism, says a Davyatyarov report of 3 July, is worse than no criticism at all. The Kirov oblast Party Committee seems to believe that criticism is an end in itself and does not serve any useful purpose other than to comply with demands from above. Some of the oblast Communist officials, in fact, are going to extremes to forestall any critical remarks in their direction. Aware of the Party's injunctions against too much interference in the administrative affairs of Soviet and other non-Party organizations, they have now "switched to the other extreme" (viharilis v druguyu krainost) by adopting a policy of complete noninterference. This is itself a flagrant violation of the Party code which provides for constant Communist guidance and supervision in every sphere of Soviet economic and cultural activities:

Suffice it to say that in the past year and a half the oblast Party Committee has never called a meeting of the deputy directors of machine-tractor stations and taken no interest in their work.

(The deputy directors of machine-tractor stations, be it noted, are in charge of the political enlightenment of the workers of their respective stations)

Russian version:

Dostatochno skazat, chto za poslednie poltora goda obkom partii ni razu ne sobiral zamestiteley direktorov MTS i ne interesovalsya ikh rabotoy.

A summarized version of KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA (13 July) speaks of the tendency among certain unnamed Party organizations "to stifle criticism and prevent its development." Whenever criticism does make itself heard, it is promptly rendered ineffective by ignoring the shortcomings it has revealed. No specific organizations or officials are mentioned.

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Nepotism, servility and a variety of similar intraparty practices in the selection and distribution of qualified Communist personnel provide the substance of scathing editorial criticism by both RADIANSKA UKRAINA and PRAVDA of 5 July. The training of Party workers in the Ukraine as a whole, says RADIANSKA UKRAINA quoting a recent decision of the Republic's Central Party Committee, is still conducted on a pretty low level. This is particularly obvious in Rovno, Drogozbych, Vinnitsa and Dnepropetrovsk Oblasts where the political background and aptitude of the future executives appear to play a minor role in the matter of training and placing them in the proper Party or Soviet organizations. The personnel situation is said to be still worse in Zhitomir, Lvov and Kamenets-Podolsk oblasts due to the continuing violations of the "bolshhevik principles of selection and distribution of cadres" (bolshovytski pryntsyypi doboru i rozstanovky kadriv). Unqualified Communist personnel in these places is either shifted from one post to another or replaced by equally incompetent people, and the result is "deterioration of every aspect of the work" (zhubno poznachayetsya na vsyakiy roboti). The paper, finally, makes it clear what it thinks is wrong with the whole cadre-training system:

The Party severely condemns those...who strive to appoint their friends and cronies to leading positions regardless of their political and business qualifications. This practice, alien to bolshevism, is conducive to a family-circle atmosphere which in turn breeds servility and mutual praise....

Ukrainian version:

Partia suvero osudzhuye tykh...khto namagayetsya vysuvaty na kerivnu robotu shoiikh pryateliv, osobysto viddanykh lyudey, nezvazhayuchy na ikh politychnu i dilovu prydatnist. V rezultati tsiei chuzhoy bilshovismovi praktyky stvoruyetsya obstanovka semelstvennosti, v yakiy kultyvuyetsya pidlabuznytstvo i vzaemovikhvalyannya...

Discussing this theme in the same vein, PRAVDA points to the admission and training of new Party membership as one of the weakest points in the cadre-training system. Just like in industry, numerous Party organizations and individual officials appear to have succumbed to the temptation of making a "good quantitative showing", and the race for new members is on in a number of areas despite the official strictures against it. This practice is said to be widespread in the Moldavian SSR, the Baltic republics, in Omsk, Pskov and Kaluga oblasts and other areas. Recalling the recent censure of the Belorussian Party for similar views on admission to Party membership en masse, the paper hopes that this would have a sobering effect on all the other Communist organizations in the country. One of the concomitant evils of this mass screening of applicants is the complete disregard of the loyal workers already holding candidate's cards. Many people with "expired candidate's cards" (prosrochenny kandidatskiy stazh) are reported by still biding their time in the Saratov, Stavropol, Smolensk, Azerbaijan and other Party Committees.

KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA (10 July) pleads for more attention to the training of Communist officials, particularly secretaries of primary organizations. The latter are the most numerous in the Party ramifications and, as has often been admitted, constitute the major link between the Party and the masses. A number of the Republic's rayon party committees, the next step up in the hierarchy, appear to maintain a supercilious attitude toward their subordinates and minimize their contact with them whenever possible. Since the enlightenment and education of primary organization secretaries is often replaced by "administrative measures" (administrativnie mery), these junior Communist officials are unable to make their own decisions and the result is a do-nothing policy. The paper does not name any specific organizations but hints that the deemphasis of the primary party organizations and their secretaries is not confined to any particular area of the Republic.

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A number of Party activities are discussed on the radio and in the press in context of agricultural and other work. Thus an unsigned PRAVDA article of 10 July (not broadcast) blames the recently-discovered deficiencies in Moscow oblast agriculture on inadequate Party propaganda among the collective farmers. A report from Tambov (13 July) states that the unnecessary shifting of personnel in the lower Party echelons is responsible for the serious shortcoming in the oblast collective and state farms.

ORLOVSKAYA PRAVDA (14 July) discloses that many of the so-called reporting-and-election meetings (otchetno-vybornie sobrania) now taking place in the oblast are poorly attended, disorganized and display little activity or initiative. In the Voroshilovsky rural council, Znamenskiy rayon, two thirds of the available Communists failed to show up for such a meeting, and the Party secretary was elected by one third of the membership by an open ballot in contravention of Party rules. Lack of popularity of these reporting-and-election meetings elsewhere is inferentially admitted by PRAVDA on 14 July. In Nizhny Novgorod oblast, the rayon Party committees "pay little attention" (udelyayut malo vnimaniya) to such meetings and, taking their cue from them, the rank and file Communists display an equal lack of enthusiasm. In Cherkessk Autonomous Oblast the meetings are said to be conspicuous for the omission of shortcoming topics and lack of criticism in general.

The Crimean Komsomol organizations are not doing all they can to whip up enthusiasm among the rural youth for the coming harvesting campaign, declares KRYMSKAYA PRAVDA on 4 July. They show little initiative in their mass political work among the farmers, and do nothing about prodding the mechanization workers into socialist competition. The paper urges that the old method of setting up Komsomol "control posts" (kontrolnie posty) be resorted to so that the necessary deliveries to the State may be assured. Attention is called to Razdolnoye, Azov and Dzhanikoy rayons which are said to be slower than all the others. A MOLODOY LENINETS editorial broadcast from Stavropol on 2 July is concerned about the unusually small number of Komsomol members among the tractor brigades, especially in Novo-Alexandrovsky rayon. The young Communist activities in other (unnamed) rayons are characterized as "low level" which makes it difficult for them to assume a "leading position" among the tractor drivers and farmers.

The "Hate America" Campaign: Although there has been no marked increase in the "normal" flow of broadcasts for home audiences on American "atrocities", some of the phraseology and descriptive nouns employed in the campaign are now almost identical with those used in wartime anti-Nazi propaganda. Such familiar reference to Hitler's troops as monsters (izvergi), executioners (palachi), beasts (zveri), beasts of prey (khishechniki) and child killers (detoubitsy) are applied to American soldiers in Korea with increasing frequency. Nor does the "American way of life" in general get better treatment on the Soviet radio. Thus a description of life in Baltimore, said to be "typical of the whole of the United States," is calculated to convey the impression of unrestrained lawlessness with death lurking behind every citizen's back. (It should perhaps be pointed out here parenthetically that life in Germany received comparatively very little attention on the Soviet radio during the last war. This, however, may have been due to the tremendous output on Nazi atrocities in the USSR which, together with domestic and other priority items, accounted for most of the radio time.)

The excerpts quoted below are taken from a talk on "American Infanticides" given by Irina Volk (Home Service, 10 July) shortly after her trip to Korea:

1. Even the animal world has its own unwritten laws: a vicious animal will never bite or devour a young animal...But the American beasts, defying even this law of the jungle, are devouring babies and tearing them to pieces.

Russian version:

Dazhe v zhivotnom mire sushchestvuyut svoi nepisannye zakony: zlostnoye zhivotnoye nikogda ne ukusit i ne rasterzayet malenkoye zhivotnoye...No Amerikanskije zveri, naperekor dazhe etim zakonam zhungli, terzayut i rvut na chasti detskie teltsa.

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Quoting Korean "eyewitnesses", Irina Volk mentions some of the gory details of the treatment of the Korean population at the hands of the Americans:

2. The American beasts broke into our homes and took the children away from the fighting soldiers' wives. They beat the little tots before their mothers' eyes trying to get information as to the whereabouts of their fathers, the guerrilla headquarters...When the bandits failed to get anything out of them, they dragged the tied-up mothers to the wells, stabbed their children and threw them into the wells while they were watching...

Russian version:

Amerikanskie zveri, vorvavshiesya k nam, otnyali u zhen frontovikov detey. Oni izbivali malyshey na glazakh materey, dobivayas priznaniy: gde nakhodyatsya ikh ottay, gde raspolozhen shtab partizan...Kogda banditam nichego ne udalost dobitya, oni potashchili svyazannikh materey k kolodtsam. Na ikh glazakh zakolobi detey i brosil v nikh...

From an anonymous commentary, "Pictures on the American Way of Life" (Home Service, 11 July):

Baltimore seethes with all sorts of criminals. Thieves, thugs, pickpockets, rogues and murderers wander about the streets...in the evenings. They may beat you up with truncheons, kill or maim you, stick a knife into your back...On a warm day inflated bodies of unknown people come to the surface of the harbor... The happenings in Baltimore, however, are typical for whole of the United States.

MISCELLANEOUS

A Home Service broadcast of 11 July says that a group of Soviet scientists have developed a highly sensitive universal X-ray meter which can measure the exact amount of X-rays used on any object under observation. This invention, it is claimed, will considerably widen the scope of scientific research work.

That the restitution of lost parts of the body, in men and animals alike, can be artificially stimulated is the view of Soviet science, according to Prof. Studitsky of the Seversky laboratory of animal morphology (13 July). The fallacious view of the "idealistic" scientists that damaged or lost tissues cannot be recovered says the Professor, has now been refuted by Soviet experimental research. Muscles and body parts can be recovered "if certain conditions are observed." This point, however, is not amplified.

Two new achievements in astronomy are chalked up to Soviet credit by Prof. Farnago (12 July) of the Society for the Dissemination of Political and Scientific Knowledge. The so-called association stars are said to have been first discovered by the president of the Armenian Academy of Sciences Ambartsumyan. This discovery is reported to have produced additional data on the stellar system and interstellar media. Farnago also reveals that Soviet photographs "had caught" the process of star formation, depicting the evolution of a star in the making.

A new apparatus now makes it possible to film all stages in the development of the embryo in the hen's egg, according to Acad. Olga Lepeshinskaya of the USSR Academy Sciences (14 July). Much research work, she says, is now underway on "the struggle against old age and the influence of soda on the improvement of metabolism."

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